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REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 and 7-9 are currently pending. Claims 1-4 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be located in Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application and at the fourth paragraph of page 15. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 7-9 FOR ANTICIPATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) OVER THANTRAKUL (U.S. Patent 5,784,611)

By its language, 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of a claim be present in a single cited reference to properly have the reference anticipate the claim. See In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566, 1567 (Fed. Cir. 1992), citing Diversitech Corp. v. Century Steps, Inc., 850 F.2d 675,677, 7 USPQ2d 1315, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 1988); Lindemann Maschinenfabrik v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 730 F.2d 1452, 1458, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984); Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. v. Johnson & Johnson Orthopaedics, Inc., 976 F.2d 1559, 24 USPQ2d 1321, 1326 (Fed. Cir. 1992); and Elmer v. ICC Fabricating Inc., 67 F.3d 1571, 36 USPQ2d 1417, 1419 (Fed. Cir. 1995).

Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Thantrakul, as Thantrakul does not disclose internal and external non-volatile memories that are accessible during a rewrite mode, by separately writing out each of the features of the selector circuit, indicated by the language of claim 1.

The present invention discloses "receiving, during said rewrite operation mode, rewrite data according to the program stored in said internal nonvolatile memory and writing the received rewrite data to an electrically rewritable external nonvolatile memory connected to the microcontroller." In other words, the present invention can write the rewrite data into the external non-volatile memory 16, as stated in the explanation of the rewrite mode of Fig. 2 in the specification (p. 12, lines 13-14), due to the fact that the present invention can have the selector circuit access both the internal and the external non-volatile memory during the rewrite mode.

In contrast, Thantrakul cannot access both an internal non-volatile memory and an external non-volatile memory at the same time, which is clear from Fig. 7 of Thantrakul, illustrating that both of the built-in ROM selected by the ROMCS* signal and the system programmer (the external ROM) selected by the ISPS* signal cannot be accessed at once during one particular mode, due to the logic of the inverter 80 and the NAND gate 78 and 82.

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Further, Thantrakul does not disclose a mode signal for distinguishing a normal operation and a rewrite operation, as in the present invention. In contrast to the present invention, Thantrakul discloses a mode select signal, which causes a logical remap of memories to execute stored program code. Therefore, the mode select signal of Thantrakul does not distinguish a normal operation and a rewrite operation. Remapping of memories is not tantamount to rewriting data. Thantrakul clearly states that the in-system programmer control logic is enabled to allow the microprocessor to fetch instructions from a memory module rather than an on-board flash/eeprom memory.

In light of the foregoing, independent claim 1 is patentable over the references. As dependent claims 2-4 and 7-9 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure that is allegedly not enabling. Applicants have amended claims 1 (claim 6 depends from independent claim 1) and 4 to address the rejection. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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